

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

LLOYD WISE

13 NOV 2001

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

To:
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Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 2 November 2001 (02.11.01)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
FP1047

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/SG 98/00068

International filing date (day/month/year)
9 September 1998 (09.09.98)

Priority Date (day/month/year)

Applicant

Spire Technologies Pte., Ltd. et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.

2. A copy of of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.

3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AT
Austrian Patent Office
Kohlmarkt 8-10
A-1014 Vienna
Facsimile No. 1/53424/200

Authorized officer

Wolf

Telephone No. +43 / 1 / 53424 - 450

Form PCT/IPEA/416 (July 1992)

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FP1047	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/SG 98/00068	International filing date (day/month/year) 9 September 1998 (09.09.1998)	Priority Date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC⁷: G01R 31/28, 1/04; H01L 21/66		
Applicant Spire Technologies Pte., Ltd. et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examination Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u> 3 </u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u> </u> sheets.</p> <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II. <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement VI. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 4 April 2000 (04.04.2000)	Date of completion of this report 12 October 2001 (12.10.2001)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AT Austrian Patent Office Kohlmarkt 8-10 A-1014 Vienna Facsimile No. 1/53424/200	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center;">MAYER T.</div> Telephone No. 1/53424/452	

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

/SG 98/00068

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☒ the international application as originally filed

☐ the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in printed form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as „originally filed“ and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box I) (July 1998)

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/SG 98/00068

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	3-19	YES
	Claims	1,2	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	3-19	YES
	Claims	1,2	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO

Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents are cited in the Search Report:

D1: EP 0305951 A1

D2: WO 96/37931 A1

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses an integrated circuit testing equipment, where the spring contacts on the test module are in the form of a C-shaped beam. The contact end (see Fig. 33, 262) and the central axis of the body portion (278 in Fig. 33; see also Fig. 36, 294) of the elongated contact member are substantially parallel to each other. Therefore the subject matter of present independent claim 1 cannot be considered novel respectively involving an inventive step.

The elongated contact member in D1 includes a C-shaped spring. Therefore dependent claim 2 cannot be considered novel respectively involving an inventive step, too.

Dependent Claim 3 comprises a contact member with two independent springs. This solution is definitely new and can be considered involving an inventive step.

Dependent claims 4 to 19 are considered novel and inventive as well, showing preferred realisations of dependent claim 3.

Document D2 describes further prior art integrated circuit testing equipments.

Industrial applicability is given.